

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 1050

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E.O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: SALT: HIGHLIGHTS OF FEB. 19 POST-PLENARY CONVERSATIONS

(SALT TWO -370)

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIETS APPEARED MILDLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE GENERAL CONCEPTS APPROACH OF THE U.S., PREFERRING TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFICS INCLUDING A DRAFT TEXT. THEY MADE NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. AND SOVIET APPROACHES. GRINEVSKY EXPRESSED MILD DISAPPOINTMENT TO KLOSSON (A-491) REGARDING JOHNSON STATEMENT, CLAIMING THE DELEGATIONS HAVE DISCUSSED PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. GRINEVSKY SAID THE SOVIETS PREFER TO SEEK AN IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT ON QUESTIONS WHERE POSSIBLE, SIMULTANEOUSLY EXPLORING CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. SHCHUKIN NOTED TO NITZE (A-493) THAT JOHNSON DISCUSSED THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK WITHOUT SUGGESTING WORK ON JOINT DRAFT TEXTS. IN RESPONSE TO NITZE'S QUESTION, SHCHUKIN SAID THE USSR HAD ANALYZED CERTAIN SALT PROBLEMS MORE PROFOUNDLY; IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THEM. SMOLIN TOLD EARLE (A-494) THE "CONCEPT" APPROACH WAS VAGUE, ADDING THAT SPECIFICS ALSO NEED EXAMINATION. TRUSOV TOLD ROWNY (A-490) HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT FRAMEWORK WAS NEEDED SINCE THE BASIC

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PRINCIPLES OF NEGOTIATION EXISTED. TWICE IN THEIR CONVERSATION,

TRUSOV INDICATED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE SOVIET REVIEW OF ISSUES WOULD BE REVEALED IN LATER SESSIONS. CHULITSKY TOLD AUSLAND (A-492) SEMENOV WOULD IN FUTURE COMMENT ON ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET POSITION BUT THE SOVIETS ARE MAINLY INTERESTED IN HEARING OUT THE U.S.

3. POSSIBLE NITZE TRANSFER. IN RESPONSE SHCHUKIN'S QUESTION (A-493), NITZE SAID THE MATTER OF HIS POSSIBLE TRANSFER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT BY NO MEANS DEFINITE, ADDING THAT HE WOULD REMAIN CONCERNED WITH SALT IN ANY EVENT. GRINEVSKY ALSO ASKED KLOSSON (A-491) AND TRUSOV ASKED ROWNY (A-490) REGARDING THIS REPORT.

4. PRAVDA ON SALT. KLOSSON WONDERED TO GRINEVSKY (A-491) WHETHER "ALEKSEYEV" AND "PLATONOV" HAD FOUND THE FEB. 14 PRAVDA ARTICLE DIFFICULT TO WRITE. GRINEVSKY LAUGHED AND SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. DELEGATION FOUND IT BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE, FOR THAT HAD BEEN THE AUTHORS' INTENT.

5. MISSILE VOLUME/THROW-WEIGHT. SCHUKIN (A-493) SAID THE VOLUME OF THE MISSILE WHICH CAN FIT WITHIN A GIVEN SILO IS A PROBLEM; THE VOLUME OF THE U.S. MINUTEMAN IS SMALLER THAN THAT OF SOVIET MISSILES. NITZE SAID THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY THE U.S. ADVANCED THE THROW-WEIGHT CONCEPT; THIS TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT SOVIET MISSILES OF A GIVEN VOLUME PRODUCED LESS THROW-WEIGHT THAN U.S. MISSILES. REFERRING TO AN EARLIER SHCHUKIN STATEMENT THAT SOVIET MISSILES WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO REPLACE EXISTING MISSILES WERE NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TO INCREASE THE POWER OF REPLACED MISSILES, NITZE SAID THIS APPEARED NOT RPT NOT TO BE TRUE, ESPECIALLY REGARDING SS-11S. SHCHUKIN IMPLIED HE WAS NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS.

6. SOVIET LEADERSHIP BUSY. SHCHUKIN TOLD NITZE (A-493) IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT TO GET MUCH ATTENTION FROM HIS SUPERIORS, E.G., SMIRNOV, REGARDING SALT. SHCHUKIN IMPLIED OTHERS AT TOP LEVEL HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AND ENERGY PROBLEMS.

7. DURATION OF SESSION. GRINEVSKY ASKED KLOSSON (A-491) HOW LONG THE CURRENT SESSION WAS LIKELY TO LAST. KLOSSON REPLIED HE HAD NO IDEA AND ASKED GRINEVSKY'S OPINION. GRINEVSKY SAID HE TOO DID NOT
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KNOW. JOHNSON

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